

FEBRUARY 22, 1965

A SPY IN THE HOUSE: The matter has been kept hushed up, but diplomatic insiders report that Anglo-American-Australian feuding in Moscow has the whole town talking and the Soviets smiling. Cause of the storm was the discovery by U.S. security men that Britisher Gilbert Walker, who worked in the security section at the Australian embassy until his defection two years ago, had been drinking and socializing for months with U.S. and Commonwealth diplomats in the American Club in Moscow. The Americans are angry because they say Walker must have been recognized by some of the Australians at the club, yet nobody reported him. Now, in an unprecedented action, Britons and Australians are being denied entry to the club unless they show security passes. A notice, with Walker's picture, has been posted in the club describing him as a "British defector" and warning members to be on the lookout for him. The British and Australians are annoyed at these actions, which one Australian diplomat called "bloody stupid." Diplomats who knew Walker before he defected insist there is "nothing sinister" about his appearance at the club. "Like most other defectors," they claim, "he just missed the company of other Westerners after a while." But at the Moscow spy trial of British businessman Greville Wynne, the club was described by the Soviet prosecutor as a place for espionage contacts.

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RELOCATING THE ESPIONAGE EXCHANGE: Like other brokers, spies need market places for the easy conduct of their business, but the site shifts with changing fads. During the Second World War, Geneva housed intelligence bazaars. Vienna took over the secret-swapping trade after the war because its divided status suited the growing political tension between Moscow and Washington. But when Austria was reunified, the spies were sent packing for fear they would hinder the country's commitment to strict neutrality. The action transferred to Berlin, where it flourished until recent months. Now the secret agents are moving back to Vienna. Western officials estimate that more than 60,000 spies, big and small, have set up shop in the Austrian capital. Reason: The considerable realignment in the Communist world. Russia now spies on the satellites, and they spy on Russia and each other; Red China checks on the whole Soviet bloc. Vienna serves this many-sided espionage business better than bipolar Berlin and is an excellent jumping off point for traveling Soviet spies headed for Albania and Yugoslavia.

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